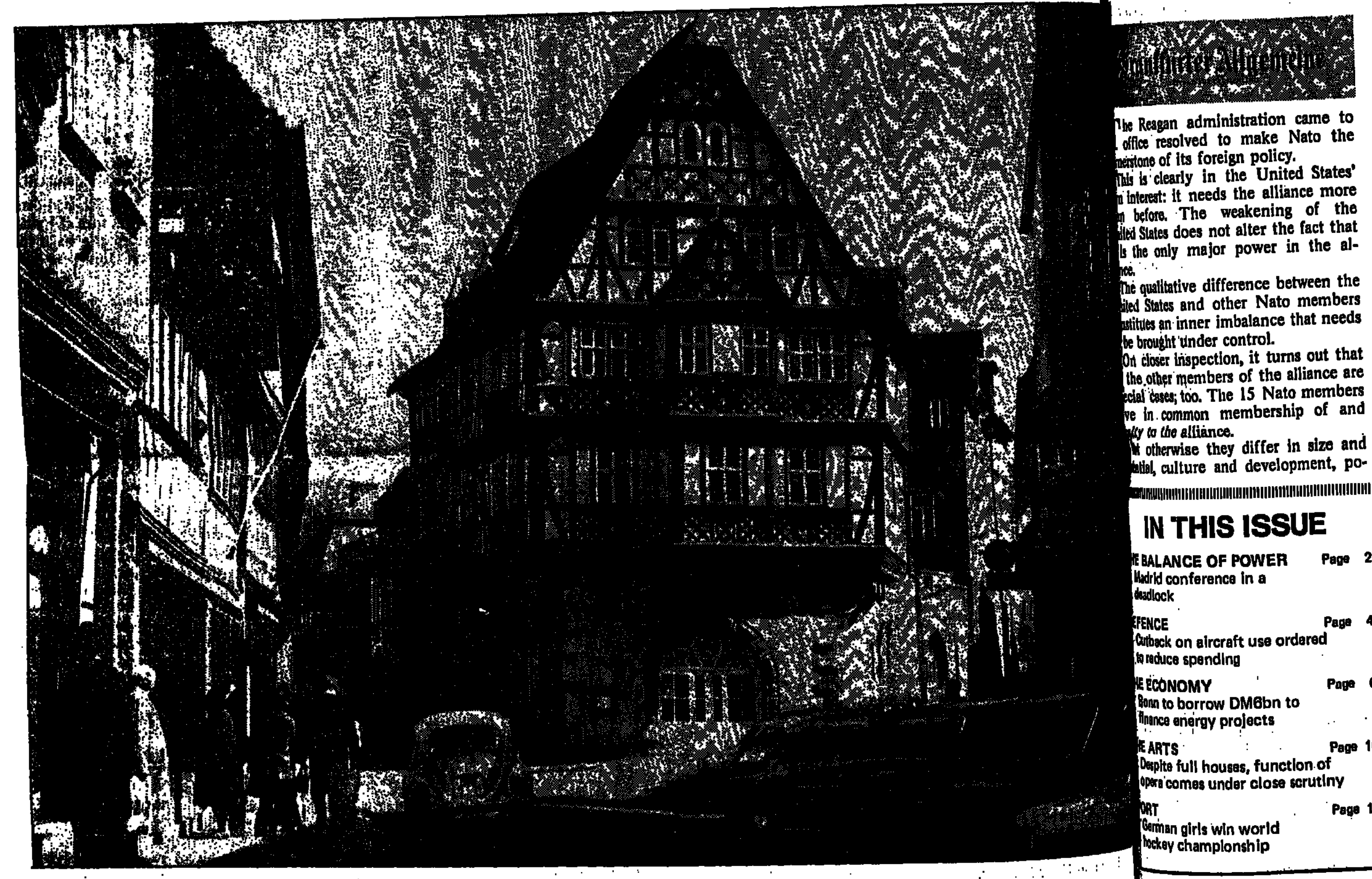
Germany's hotel

Nowhere else in the world is the range of hotels, the hospitality so varied, so elegant, so pleasant as in Germany. You can stay in medieval surroundings or in tomorrow's world of the year 2000, whichever you please. Hotel after hotel – hotels with "stars" and "golden keys"; with halftimbered frames, castle walls, towers. Romantic courtyards, gardens, wine-cellars, swimming pools. Hotels of glass and concrete and air-conditioned throughout. Just as you're used to in New York or Tokio or Mexico City. Hotels for business people, gourmets, tourists, for the romantically inclined and for those in love. Nowhere else in the world is the range of hospitality so varied.



Hotel Riesen, Miltenberg



Munich

The German Tribune

…burg, 26 April 1981
…entieth Year - No. 985 - By air

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Strength in Nato's diverse nature

The Reagan administration came to office resolved to make Nato the cornerstone of its foreign policy.

This is clearly in the United States' own interest: it needs the alliance more than before. The weakening of the United States does not alter the fact that it is the only major power in the alliance.

The qualitative difference between the United States and other Nato members constitutes an inner imbalance that needs to be brought under control.

On closer inspection, it turns out that the other members of the alliance are special cases, too. The 15 Nato members have in common membership of and loyalty to the alliance.

But otherwise they differ in size and potential, culture and development, political tempreament, geographical position and particular interests, which they each interpret in the light of their history.

The diversity of the members could be a weakness, but it is also a source of its strength: the variety of their ideas and experience, the diversity of their material and intellectual backgrounds, complement one another.

It is in the nature of a free alliance that its leadership cannot be a matter solely for the leading power or for that leading power and a number of medium-sized powers.

All members must be involved in leadership. And therefore foreign policy must have its legitimation at home. All the governments in Nato, even the smallest, lead at home – and they can only do so if they do not give the impression of being remote controlled from outside.

Inevitably, there are differences in the degree of cooperation, depending on the capacity of each member to make a contribution – for example in the field of intelligence, diplomacy, economic power, military power.

Here the leading power clearly holds the trumps, followed by France, Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany. However, no one in the alliance knows more about Libya than the Italians, the Dutch are still the best informed about Indonesia and it would be folly to ignore the knowledge and connections that Portuguese industry and the civil service have gained in southern Africa.

Outside the Nato area, few member states are capable of acting. And the resources they put outside the area will have to be replaced inside the area by other members. All should contribute to making up "at home" for what others

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Exchanging ideas. American Secretary of State Alexander Haig in Bonn with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) and the Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt. (Photo: dpa)

Haig winds-up tour with cordial talks in Bonn

Bonn was the last stopover on US Secretary of State Haig's nine-day visit to the Middle East and Europe. It was also the shortest.

The cordiality of his meeting with Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher was genuine – despite a number of problems between Bonn and Washington.

They all know each other from the days when Haig was Nato Supreme Commander in Brussels. And Herr Genscher visited his US opposite number in Washington recently.

However, the pleasant nature of their meeting did not eliminate all the problems.

It was already known that Haig's tone was more moderate than that of his colleague Weinberger from the Pentagon. Haig was clearly trying to calm a certain amount of Bonn shock at Weinberger's forthrightness.

In Washington, too, realities are not always as fearsome as the tough talk might lead us to believe.

However, Weinberger's criticisms are not the only ones. There are increasingly critical voices being raised in the White House about the role of the Europeans, especially West Germany, in Nato.

What goes? Weinberger's hard line or Haig's softer one? The Bonn government probably will not know for sure until Helmut Schmidt has visited President Reagan in Washington on 20 May. The Europeans have now noticed that the Atlantic *Gemütlichkeit* of the 7os is over. On the other hand it is also forgotten that Europeans have in recent years also called for more leadership from the United States.

Despite all the assurances of common positions on the Nato modernisation decision, Haig's visit underlined differences of opinion.

The USA want negotiations with the Soviet Union on medium range nuclear missiles "as soon as possible." But Washington will decide what is "possible" and will not be pressured by its allies.

Like it or not, Schmidt and Genscher had to agree to missile reduction negotiations taking place outside the Salt process – with only the results being incorporated in Salt. Here the USA is sticking to its hard line of not resuming Salt negotiations until the Soviets move on Afghanistan.

Although the question of arms exports to Saudi Arabia was not officially broached in Bonn, Secretary of State Haig gave a signal when he indicated to journalists that despite the Israel prob-

Continued on page 2

American Secretary of State Haig's attempts to draw the Middle East …nflict into the East-West arena have …viously met with little success.

The Israelis, the Jordanians and the …di Arabians are clearly not prepared …subordinate their differences of opin…n on Jerusalem, the occupied terri…ies and the Palestinian problem to …ashington's wishes for stronger …fence against the Soviet danger.

Haig has not brought about the stra…ic consensus between these countries …ich was the self-declared aim of his …rney. True, Saudi Arabia did break off … relations with the Soviet satellite go…nment in Afghanistan – but is not …pared to become a satellite of the …SA.

It does not want American troops in … Gulf, nor does it want to exchange … Soviet Union for Israel as its num… one enemy

Middle East states play it warily over Gulf



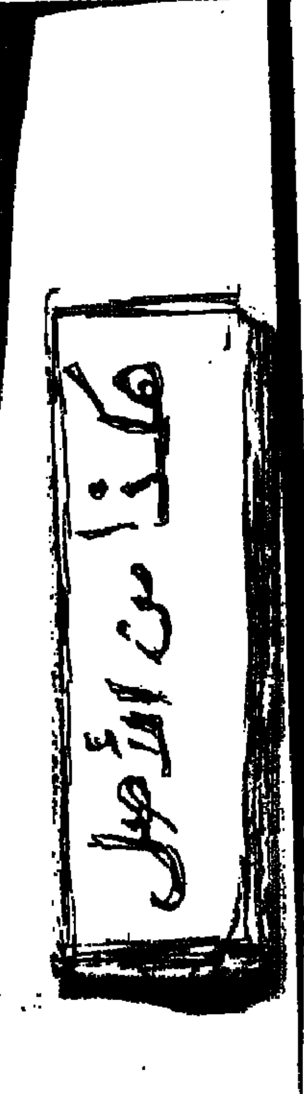
Saudi Arabia's foreign policy is extremely complex. It keeps well distant from Moscow, but it distance from Washington has also grown.

Riyadh would like to keep both great powers out of the Gulf, because it believes that the presence of one would attract the other. American protection is desired – but at a certain distance.

The Saudi dynasty is well aware of the anti-Americanism that led to the overthrow of the Shah of Iran. The Saudi royal family does not wish to appear arm in arm with the Americans. And its fear of being overrun by radical Arab forces if they do not march at the head of the anti-Israeli movement is even greater.

For Saudi Arabia, weapons from Europe are a symbol of independence. After Haig's failure, Helmut Schmidt can now expect Saudi pressure for German tanks to be even stronger when he visits Saudi Arabia shortly.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 April 1981)



The Madrid review of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) is deadlocked after 17 weeks of conference proper and nine weeks of preliminaries.

However, the mood of the German delegation in the final week before delegates departed for the Easter break was hopeful, not because of the Soviet Union's attitude in Madrid, but because of the encouraging reports following Bonn Foreign Minister Genscher's visit to Moscow.

Work in Madrid should have been completed by 5 March. But no important agreement has yet been reached and not a single line of the final communique has been written.

To break out of this deadlock the neutral and non-aligned states made an unofficial proposal for a final communique on 31 March.

Predictably, this compromise was criticised both by East and West. West German delegation leader Kastl made clear what his objections were: no mention of the right of free access to embassies and consulates; and the need for more precise formulation on the human-rights questions.

Also the document made no mention of the high compulsory exchange rates for West German visitors to the GDR.

Nonetheless the final document — in the drafting of which Switzerland played a leading part — is regarded as a

■ THE BALANCE OF POWER

Madrid conference in a deadlock

promising starting point for comprehensive and substantial final document.

The neutral states closest to the West — Switzerland and Austria — often with support from Yugoslavia, Cyprus, Liechtenstein and San Marino — won the day in the face of the understandable hesitancy of Finland, which has to take possible Soviet disapproval into account, and the less understandable caution of Sweden.

At the end there was a tough confrontation between Herr Kastl and the deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Iljitchov. Kastl accused Iljitchov of making ultimata and thus preventing a result. Iljitchov accused the Germans of sensationalism and grouped them among the bad boys of the West alongside Great Britain and the United States.

Brezhnev has already surprised the conference once, when he declared his willingness to discuss the extension of European arms control to the Urals. Only two days previously Iljitchov had described precisely this idea as absurd and immoral.

Although Iljitchov and his East Bloc supporters were anything but prepared to make concessions in the week before Eastern, there was a general impression among Western delegations that the Soviet Union is now at last prepared to pay an appropriate price for the European disarmament conference which it wants — but it will make every effort to keep this price as low as possible.

In their final speeches before the Easter break East Bloc representatives doggedly and deliberately set about taking the sting out of the neutral countries' compromise proposals.

They want, for example, to get around the call for respect of human rights (principle 7) by coupling it with principle 6 (non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries) and principle 9 (cooperation).

The Western states rejected these attempts firmly, pointing out, with a certain degree of smugness, that the principle of non-intervention was very topical at the present time.

Everyone realised that these were references to Afghanistan and to Poland, though few mentioned the former and no one the latter.

In Madrid the western countries showed far greater unity than in Belgrade. After initial hesitation, Washington took the interests and wishes of its allies into account on the question of the disarmament conference.

East European delegates and observers admitted in private conversation that Moscow's hopes of divisions in the western camp had not been fulfilled.

Although Iljitchov and his colleagues showed plenty of initiative and imagination, they did not succeed in driving a wedge into the Western phalanx — which included host country Spain.

The Americans showed themselves willing to learn, at least outwardly. US under-secretary of state Eagleburger said how instructive his conversations with European heads of government on Central America had been — though he had come to Europe determined to persuade the Europeans to give clear support to US policy in El Salvador.

Moscow would like to see the disarmament conference uncoupled from the CSCE process. The West insists on [a] time difference between the two pha[ses] of the disarmament conference. A[fter] the first phase, in which agreement i[s to] be reached on confidence building mea[sures] (manoeuvre observations, repo[rts] of troop movements) the next conf[er]ence on cooperation and security in Eu[rope] could take place.

There will undoubtedly be differ[ences] of opinion in May about the most im[portant] preconditions for a disarma[ment] conference — agreement or at least [bet]ter convergence of viewpoints on [ques]tions of the military importance [and sig]nificance, checking and controls.

In the final week of the confer[ence] the British and the Americans b[rought] up the question of the implementa[tion] of the first phase of the CSCE [—] look-back at the extent to which co[un]tries had acted on their commitments [in] Helsinki.

There was talk of Afghanistan [and] maltreatment of human rights prote[sts] for the first time in a long time at [the] Madrid conference palace.

With their complaint about [the] treatment of the border question [in] West German school text books [the] Poles were the first East Bloc country [to] start with implementation.

Spanish delegation leader and amba[s]sador Repérez summed up the co[nfer]ence attitude of most Western and n[eu]tral delegation leaders to date by sa[ying] that he was neither optimistic nor co[m]pletely pessimistic about its outcome.

Neither the Western nor the ea[stern] states want the conference to go on [lon]ger than the middle of June.

Walter Haubi[ch]

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Z[eitung] für Deutschland, 15 April [1981])

Haig tour

Continued from page 1

lem, the USA would probably have no choice but to supply Saudi Arabia with modern fighter jets. Now the SPD can have three guesses about what would be more dangerous to Israel — German tanks or American jets.

Moreover, Haig told his Bonn discussion partners in no uncertain terms that it should exercise restraint in Middle East questions. Unlike the EC, Washington wants no upgrading of the PLO at the moment.

Rudi Kilgus

(Mannheimer Morgen, 13 April 1981)

Continued from page 1

are doing "away from home." This requires unity, cooperation and consultation — even with those not directly involved, the smaller Nato members.

Division of labour is the new Nato slogan. If this is not to mean an unfair division and if we wish to prevent some members from degenerating into the parasitic state of free-loaders, then it is important that all alliance members can participate and feel involved.

Of course this is complex and time-consulting. It would appear to be more efficient if the United States and some leading medium-sized powers would form a Nato steering committee, a Nato executive in which decisions could be made quickly.

But the efficiency that might thus be gained in the short term would be bought at the cost of much political good-will.

There would be a risk not only of irritation among the excluded but also of jealousy among those involved. One example of the was the planned Nato "Big power" conference of February 1980 — which never took place.

French diplomacy has always been fond of the idea of a directory in Nato.

Nato strength

The Guadeloupe conference in 1979 was a blueprint. But Giscard d'Estaing called the whole thing off because he did not want Italy to join the discussions as the fifth power.

Experience shows that new organs in Nato or a redefining of status among allies does more harm than good.

Of course there is nothing to prevent informal consultations — especially among those most directly involved — before discussions in the Nato council.

This is nothing new. Nato members have indeed long since accepted it — provided it is done discreetly and no government is snubbed. Conferences of ministers are much too conspicuous events for such pre-coordination.

Top diplomats and secretaries of state are quiet people, scarcely known. And they travel around so much that it is difficult to keep track of them.

Günther Gillessen

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 April 1981)

Bonn's offer to Moscow comes with a warning

Bremer Nachrichten

When asked what he thought of a US-Soviet summit, President Reagan said: "I do not believe there is much point in getting round a table with them unless there is a sign that they have changed their attitude — and their activities."

Snubbed in Washington, Leonid Brezhnev has chosen a second best destination: Bonn. And unlike Reagan, Chancellor Schmidt has no objections.

Last year Schmidt was out of luck with his *ostpolitik* summit diplomacy. Two planned meetings with East German leader Erich Honecker had to be cancelled, the first because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the second because of the unrest in Poland. And the meeting between Gierek and Schmidt was also spoilt by Poland.

The unrest in Poland is still far from over. There are alarming reports of military activity along the Russo-Polish frontier. Poland's East Bloc neighbours are alarmed at the danger of infection and are putting up their defences against the spreaders of the freedom bacillus.

The renewed consideration of another Bonn-Moscow meeting does not seem to fit in well in the present East-West situation — even if one grants that Schmidt cannot demand the same kind of pre-talk concessions as the USA.

Brezhnev's interest now in accepting the courtesy invitation Schmidt p[ut to] him during his controversial vi[sit to] Moscow last year, confirms suspic[ions] that his aim is to entangle the E[uro]peans in "special disarmament talks".

The proposed visit could also b[e a] sign that all the political and mili[tary] activities in the East Bloc against [Po]land are only threatening gestu[res.] Schmidt has made it clear that th[ere] would be an end to Western aid if P[o]land were attacked from within or f[rom] without.

Bonn's positive response to Brezh[nev] can be seen as a coded message w[hich] says that Bonn assumes that the Kr[em]lin has duly noted Western warnings.

Siegfried Mich[...]

(Bremer Nachrichten, 7 April 1[981])

The German Tribune

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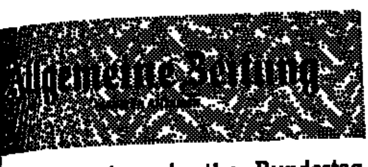
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HOME AFFAIRS

Problem of unifying strategy remains



[Co]alition speakers in the Bundestag [de]bate following the Chancellor's [state]-of-the-nation message were more [conc]erned about cosmetics rather than [wi]th remove the unnatural dividing [line] through Germany.

[Ye]t the nation remains divided, with [its] parts belonging to rival political [blo]cs.

[T]he demarcation line has become [eve]n more impenetrable in the past few [yea]rs. The hope of reunification has [dw]indled still further.

So none of the speakers in the debate [cou]ld have possibly termed the state of [the] nation as good.

And hardly anyone apart from Rainer [Bar]zel, CDU, (and, of course, the Chan[cel]lor in some passages of his address [wi]th rereading) depicted the situation [as] being as bleak as it really is.

Helmut Schmidt's address did not [lac]k a matter-of-fact analysis of the [Ger]man-German and the East-West sit[ua]tion in Europe.

He clearly said what could happen if those prevailed in this country who would like to do away with the term "nation": a dangerous nationalistic reaction would ensue.

Schmidt's former permanent representative in East Berlin, Günter Gaus (he is now senator in Berlin) must have pricked his ears when Schmidt said: "If we were to forget about the nation we would be acting selfishly and devoid of solidarity with our fellow countrymen in the GDR for whom identification with one German nation is a more vital necessity than it is here."

Schmidt said that the German nation would continue to exist as long as the people in the two parts of Germany wanted it to exist.

He did not, however, say how he intended to revive the will to reunification which is threatening to dwindle as the old generation passes away.

The Bonn government evidently has no strategic concept that could dissuade the East Berlin rulers from their dogged determination to bring about a total separation in terms of international law of the two Germanies and to institute East German citizenship.

Meanwhile, the struggle is on in Bonn and Brussels to prevent an economic decline in the Federal Republic of Germany, assuaging conscience with the argument that there is nothing to be done on behalf of the Germans in the eastern part of the country who in any event have known worse times.

The least the Bonn government should tell the GDR as a party to treaties that have not been spelled out in as much detail as necessary is the consequences and reactions that must ensue should these treaties not be honoured and should the letter and the spirit of them be violated.

It is this lack of a warning addressed directly to East Berlin that made the state of the nation address so unsatisfactory.

In what is admittedly a delicate area of German politics, Bonn has managed to describe the position, but it has offered no instruments and perspectives with which to reverse the retrogressive trend.

Granted, it is difficult to find a concept that would bring the Germans closer to each other again. But even a beginning would mean a great deal. The mere appeal to make moderation, perseverance and reliability German virtues is not enough.

On the other hand, nobody can accuse the Chancellor of having minimised the threat to peace that results from the Soviet arms buildup.

The manner and poignancy with which he did this after leaving it to Hans-Dietrich Genscher for months to sound the warnings lends that extra weight to his statements.

Even the most naive must realise by now that the danger comes from the more than 1,000 nuclear warheads which Moscow has targeted on Western Europe and not from American medium-range missiles of he same capacity which in any event will not be stationed in Europe until 1983 at the earliest.

Schmidt blames the Soviet Union for the dark clouds on the horizon of world politics — and there is little to be added to this.

A danger that has been pinpointed is a danger halved if the threatened party is determinded to counter it.

Moscow reacted with remarkable restraint and did not even bother to deny the figures given by Schmidt. All that was said in Moscow was that missile did not equal missile.

So far as the citizenship question is concerned, the GDR news agency ADN spoke of a "revanchist attitude that runs counter to international law." For the rest, it said, Schmidt lacked the willingness to "accept facts."

East Berlin thus continues on its tough course.

Standing firmly on the side of his Western allies, the Chancellor could seek to restore the balance of power and at the same time negotiate disarmament if it were not for those influential groupings within his party that deny the threat from Moscow and those that exaggerate it.

The Young Democrats have intimated to Genscher that the disarmament initiative within his party would come to the fore in the next few weeks; and the same applies to Schmidt and his fellow party members.

Schmidt cannot even be sure of receiving the support of SPD Chairman Willy Brandt on this issue.

But, if they join forces, the realists in the SPD and FDP should be able to keep the lid on the pot.

Karl Heinz Hock

(Allgemeine Zeitung, 11 April 1981)

Chancellor Schmidt during his state of the nation speech in the Bundestag.
(Photo: dpa)

Echo from the past

[It']s a long time since Rainer Barzel was Bonn's minister for all-German affairs.

So it sounded like an echo from a [by]gone era when he used the terminolo[gy] of the 1950s to reply to the Chancel[lor']s state-of-the-nation address.

Herr Barzel deplored the fact that the [ter]m "reunification" did not occur at all [in] Helmut Schmidt's address.

But the majority of the Bundestag, [inc]luding the CDU/CSU opposition, [pun]ished the Chancellor by not bother[ing] to show up at all.

They did not miss much, although [the]re were some remarkable elements in [the] Chancellor's address — elements [that] are characteristic for this year and [this] era.

When Schmidt said that "most people [thro]ughout the world would like to [swit]ch places with the Germans", he [refe]rred not only to West Germany — [and] this is something worth pondering.

Notwithstanding his criticism of the [GD]R's policy on individual issues, the [ma]in is that things could well be worse.

The past ten years have shown how [mu]ch can be achieved through coopera[tion] in central Europe and how much [our] neighbours in the other Germany [hav]e benefited from it.

We must try to cultivate these good [beg]innings and this cannot be done [wit]hout US support. Nor can it be done [wit]hout backing from the Soviet Union.

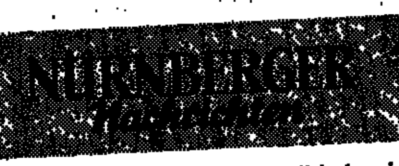
The closer the ties between East and [We]st, the better the relations between [Wa]shington and Moscow, the better it is [for] Germans.

This is the crux of the state-of-the-[nat]ion address and there can be no con[tra]dicting it.

Siegfried Maruhn

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 10 April 1981)

Failure to come to terms with youth question



The latest Bundestag debate on the problems of the young was a prime example of how not to deal with the subject.

Instead of coming to the point, both coalition and opposition tried to outdo each other in handing out blame.

Young people whose worries revolve around stress at school, finding university places or apprenticeships; who are concerned about such issues as the environment, housing, bureaucracy and the indolence of a modern industrial society: once more they were shown how politicians talk without even touching on their problems.

The established parties have been unable to provide Germany's rebellious youth with answers to pressing problems. Nor have they given political guidelines for an uncertain future.

As usual in such circumstances, the politicians reacted by setting up an inquiry commission to delve into the background of rebellion.

The commission would be well advised to include the Bundestag debate in its list of causes.

Apart from a few exceptions, most speakers simplified the issue classifying together rabble rousers, dope addicts, squatters and those who have opted out.

In the end they came up with such empty slogans as: "Youth must be made to adopt a positive attitude towards the state".

Many of our politicians still seem far from the realisation that the opposite is true and that it is up to the state to develop a positive attitude towards the young rather than ignore them.

And it is much less important to the young people than to many an opposition politician whether the newly set up commission is to call itself "Commission on Youth Protest" or whether it is to bear the label "Youth in a Democratic State".

An incident on the periphery of the debate speaks for itself: when former Juso leader Schröder took the floor wearing an open-neck shirt one of the MPs complained about his not wearing a tie.

Exactly this is what our youth cannot stomach: the fact that politicians consider the packaging more important than the contents.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 11 April 1981)

DEFENCE

Cutback on aircraft use ordered to reduce spending

The Luftwaffe is partly to take out of action 100 aircraft as part of a cost-cutting exercise.

This means that only absolutely necessary cash for maintenance will be used.

This mothballing step follows a Defence Ministry decision last month that can be summed up in three words: scrapping, postponing and stretching.

Assisted by civilian and military advisers, Defence Minister Hans Apel has thus managed to save DM 1.3bn from his DM 3.7bn procurement budget for 1982/84.

The missing billion needed to make up the DM 2.3bn shortfall is expected to come from the Finance Ministry in the form of a supplementary allocation.

The defence minister has meanwhile come under a barrage on two points. On the one hand, he stands accused of not having revealed all figures and of covering up for a shortfall that is rather worse than admitted (CDU politician Manfred Wörner recently said that the Bundeswehr was on the verge of bankruptcy) and, on the other hand, the air force and army chiefs of staff are said to have complained about the cutbacks.

There is consensus among many critics that Bonn's arms policy has atrophied to the point where it is simply an extended arm of its finance policy, orientating itself not by the growing threat but only by the growing deficit.

The truth is probably that the Bundeswehr has reached a turning point in its assessment of strategic exigencies on the one hand and financial necessities on the other.

The accent was very much different during the many fat years when demands on the budget were unending — and were met.

Only what was expensive was considered good in those days. This resulted in the Tornado — an aircraft which the Bundeswehr can no longer afford.

In fact, it was the military that drove the prices up by setting excessively demanding standards on the procurement front.

The misfortune of the Bundeswehr lies in the fact that the necessity to



economise comes at the very moment when everybody — and above all Germany's foremost ally, the United States — is labouring under the impact of stepped-up Soviet armaments and the necessity for the West to improve its own military potential.

Of course, the threat from the East can be used to argue that the Tornado is indispensable. But the Bundeswehr should once more remember its limitations and the fact that it is not the only pillar of Nato.

Its main task is still to provide the necessary land forces with which to defend central Europe — no mean task and one that must be given priority. Still, without a reasonable measure of sophisticated arms technology even this task cannot be fulfilled.

The scrapping of the army's most expensive project, the anti-tank missile, Milan, demonstrates the wrong developments that are possible even in this sector.

But none of the experts are particularly disturbed over this latest decision. Milan is a typical example of "overbred" technology. It is an ideal weapon for long-range work which virtually never occurs under central European conditions. By the same token, it is virtually useless at short range.

Even the naive lamentation that it was defensive weapons that were struck from the procurement list at the latest Defence Ministry conference cannot save this system. Granted, Milan is indeed a defensive weapon, but above all it is a product of highbred technology that has fallen short of expectations.

Essentially, the army has acted pretty much like society at large over procurements: fascinated by the technical possibilities, it went on a buying spree without considering the consequences.

The Bundeswehr has a lacked a sense for inexpensive solutions from its very inception. Ever since the rejection of the Bonin Plan in the 1950s, simple hardware has been considered taboo — and the Bundeswehr could even cou[nt on] tacit support by the public.

Alternative armament models w[ould] have required better soldiers an[d] mobilisation of more reservists, in o[ther] words, more money for manpower[.] nobody wanted this drain on the [in]dustrial work force and interference [with] our affluent leisure society. So i[t was] considered better to let the armed [forces] proceed with their armaments [pro]gramme instead.

Projections resulting from the ... trend to economise and the disclo[sure of] German-American plans have ma[de it] clear meanwhile that the reservist p[oten]tial is to be tapped more than ... (But proponents of such alternati[ve con]cepts frequently omit to mention ... such a reservist force also costs m[oney].)

Once the defence priorities hav[e been] properly set and the reservist p... has been fully calculated we will h[ave] to turn to a third problem: defenc[e] as a whole. How much is enough [for a] country like the Federal Republ[ic of] Germany and how much is necess[ary?]

In terms of absolute figures, de[fence] spending has risen continuously o[ver the] past 20 years. But relative to the ... as a whole it has dropped from 21... per cent.

When it comes to money — his ... ey — the citizen is likely to disco[ver his] interest in defence issues.

Christian Pot...

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 8 April ...)

More soldiers maltreated tha[n] the figures indicate

Soldiers are maltreated more often than is generally assumed, according to the Bundeswehr Ombudsman, Karl-Wilhelm Berkhan.

In his annual report, he said many *soldiers suffered indignities without* complaining.

By not reporting incidents, they hoped to avoid more troubles. But it also meant that the extent of the problem was disguised.

Herr Berkhan illustrated his report with several examples.

In one case, two soldiers held another while others poured candle wax, shampoo and cocoa over him. Then they urinated in his gymn shoes.

The victim was considered not too bright, physically weak and not particularly clean. This had prompted his superior, an NCO, to tell his roommates to teach him a lesson. He told them that they could do anything they pleased short of killing the man.

So they trussed him up and tied him to his bed. Then they took off his pants and smeared shoe polish and ketchup all over him.

The NCO was given a 9-month suspended sentence while the men received disciplinary punishment and were fined up to DM 1,600.

The incident highlights a problem the Bundeswehr has to cope with.

Some time ago, army Chief of Staff Hans Pöppel pointed out that a number of serious incidents had occurred among the ranks — incidents involving violence.

Recruits, he said, were frequently mistreated by their seniors and outsiders had a particularly tough time of it.

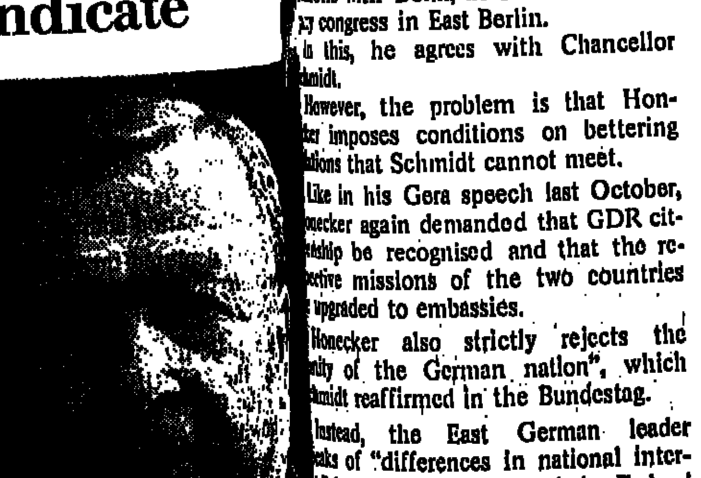
Ombudsman Berkhan has now once more drawn attention to these occurences.

He describes another case: two soldiers who had almost completed their basic training, went on a drinking bout. Then they went into a barracks with young recruits and beat them up so severely that one of them had to have his injuries stitched, another had a broken toe and a third was concussed.

Berkhan deplores not only the violence but above all the fact that much of this takes place with the knowledge of the men's superiors, and is indeed condoned by them.

In another incident, some draftees who had been drinking went to a sleeping colleague and tried to make him to join them. When he refused they forced him to take off his pyjamas and get under the shower which they kept turning on hot and cold in turn. One of the men smeared black shoe polish over the victim's genitals and be was then forced to clean himself with a lavatory brush.

Berkhan called on officers to communicate more closely with their men,



Karl-Wilhelm Berkhan (Photo: Sven S...)

paying particular attention to oth... He also called on officers and NC[Os to] inspect barracks during the nig[ht as] well.

Another area of concern is the ... similar acts of larceny.

The report points to the fact th[at pet]rol thefts and the stealing of too[ls are] common.

Where the theft of arms and [am]munition is concerned, Herr Berkh[an at]tributes this primarily to the men ... ing to have a souvenir of their ... the army.

Regarding violence, he said th[at] reported incidents did not perm[it a] generalisation that there was a ... order in the armed forces. Inst[ead, he] said, many of these excesses ... blamed on alcohol.

Friedrich ...

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 9 April ...)

Report 'aims at change in objection provisions'

A comment in the annual report of the Bundeswehr Ombudsman, Karl-Wilhelm Berkhan, is clearly aimed at getting conscientious objection provisions altered.

He said the lack of understanding among draftees about the need for national service was deplorable. This meant the attitude to defence as a whole.

The report's concern that this lack of motivation could jeopardise the Bundeswehr once the low birth rate generation is drafted seems have met with little understanding among our MPs.

But the intention of the remark is clearly to redraft the conscientious objection provisions in a manner that would correspond exactly to the Constitution, i. e. conscientious objection for reasons of conscience and not to cater to simple unwillingness to serve.

By coincidence, the presentation of the ombudsman's report came at the same time as the closing of Nato's Nuclear Planning Staff meeting in Bonn.

The concern over the Soviet armament drive expressed by the Nato defence ministers convincingly underscored the need for an added defence effort.

But the ombudsman's demand that the need to maintain our defences be driven home to our draftees more decisively than hitherto must not be restricted to the Bundeswehr. It must encompass society as a whole.

Werner Neumann

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 9 April 1981)

INTRA-GERMAN AFFAIRS

GDR plagued by production worries as party congress convenes

[P]roduction capacity is inadequate, raw materials are short, and sub-contract[or]s are unable to keep to schedule: [the]se reasons are why exhortations in [the] GDR to increase output are bound [to] fail.

Workers in the GDR were last year [urg]ed to exceed the daily target "in [hon]our of the 10th party congress" this [mon]th.

But it is open to doubt whether the [dai]ly target was even met.

In any event, all the ado over the [co]ngress (which the people try to ignore [as] best they can) only serves to promote ["m]oral rearmament" rather than increase [th]e output in those sectors that are [m]arked by shortages.

Still, the East Berlin Party organ *Neues Deutschland* seems to be sat[is]fied. A report on the departure of the [de]legates from the various industries to [at]tend the congress reads: "Thanks to [th]e exemplary performance in the great[e]st mass competition in the GDR's his[to]ry, the delegates can point to targets that have been met and to daily outputs beyond target."

So the delegates are dead on target. But the planners are clearly short of it.

Gerhard Schürer, chairman of the state planning commission and Politburo candidate since 1973, is still to present the Five Year Plan for 1981 through 1985.

Difficulties on world markets, the Polish crisis and problems in coordinating the plans of the other Comecon countries in conjunction with the GDR's medium-term planning have led to a situation in which the planners are afraid to present their figures and data in good time, which would have meant in January. Had they done so the customary big "people's debate" could have taken place before the congress.

The way things stand, there is every likelihood that Prime Minister Stoph will report to the congress on the "Directives on the Five Year Plan for the Development of the National Economy of the GDR in the Years 1981-1985".

It will then be up to the congress to rule on the issue without the relevant figures and data of the plan being known to all and without their having been discussed.

For Schürer, who has just turned 60, this is unlikely to be a red letter day.

But all this leaves the people of the GDR cold. They realise that, things being as they are, a party congress ("The dominant force of the Workers' and Farmers' State") brings them no benefits and that they should in fact be grateful if the economic position does no deteriorate further.

Any social programme like that which was announced immediately before the 9th congress in 1976 is out of the question, and so is the 40-hour work week of which the East Germans can only dream.

Nor is Honecker's slogan to the effect that "you can only spend if you produce" likely to prod anybody into working harder.

The realisation is spreading in East Germany that more and more of the goods that are produced are exported or that they must go to the "crazy, strike-obsessed and insatiable Poles".

The East German State Security Service has every reason to be satisfied so far about Poland. There is a growing anti-Polish mood among the public and even those who ponder reforms of the GDR's bureaucratic socialism are immune against the "Polish virus".

Many East Germans have adopted an attitude that can best be summed up as "rather a terrifying end than terror without end."

Poland is bound to overshadow the Congress even should Honecker desist from the harsh tone used by Czechoslovakia's party boss Husak at that country's recent party congress.

Developments in Poland have not only hampered medium and long-term planning. They have also made progress in normalising German-German relations almost impossible.

Honecker's report is likely to dwell at some length on the "Brussels missiles decision" and on the fact that the two German states must now above all discuss arms limitation and disarmament. But there is unlikely to be any reference to easing up on travel restrictions between the two Germanies or on the compulsory currency exchange for visitors from the West.

It would be surprising if Honecker were not to reiterate the demand he made in Gera and it would be equally surprising if he did not reaffirm his recently expressed view that Germany could be reunited under a socialist regime.

It is unlikely that the congress will give any signals to indicate a continuation of the German-German treaty policy and an easing of the GDR's isolation and confrontation policy as practised since last August.

The maxims dominating the 10th congress (which comes four weeks before the 10th anniversary of Honecker's succession to Ulbricht's office) can be summed up as: preserving and securing power and conserving the status quo.

But notwithstanding the fact that Honecker's programme aimed at a continuously growing national affluence has



ground to a halt as has his cooperation policy with Bonn (which the Soviet Union opposed at the beginning), his position at the top of the Communist Party remains unshakable.

He is thus the undisputed number one personality in the GDR — without a rival and without any opposing group in the Politburo.

And since the SED leadership is not "over aged" (the average age of the 18 Politburo members after the death of Gerhard Grüneberg is 60) there is no reason for a reshuffle at the top of the Party.

There is a possibility that Albert Norden, who is 76 (and ailing) will be retired and that the youngest of the seven Politburo candidates, 44-year-old Egon Krenz, Free German youth chairman since 1974, will become a full member and be given a post in the Secretariat.

But this need not happen at this congress although a successor to Grüneberg in the post of central committee secretary for agriculture will have to be found.

Jochen Winters

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 April 1981)

Honecker puts a price on better-relations call

GDR party leader Erich Honecker *wants to* continue promoting better [rela]tions with Bonn, he said at the 10th [part]y congress in East Berlin.

In this, he agrees with Chancellor [Sc]hmidt.

However, the problem is that Hon[ec]ker imposes conditions on bettering [rel]ations that Schmidt cannot meet.

Like in his Gera speech last October, [H]onecker again demanded that GDR cit[izen]ship be recognised and that the re[spe]ctive missions of the two countries [be] upgraded to embassies.

Honecker also strictly rejects the ["u]nity of the German nation", which [Sc]hmidt reaffirmed in the Bundestag.

Instead, the East German leader [spe]aks of "differences in national inter[est]s" between the GDR and the Federal [Re]public of Germany.

And the lifting of the compulsory [cur]rency exchange imposed on visitors [to] the GDR is not up for discussion, [H]onecker made clear.

Honecker makes a "normalisation" of [G]erman-German ties contingent on [Bo]nn's reducing its defence effort and [o]n not going along with the dual Nato [de]cision to boost its medium range mis[sil]es in Europe and negotiate disarma[m]ent. And this is another condition [Sc]hmidt cannot meet.

If he were to act in accordance with [th]e wishes of East Berlin and Moscow [he] would take a step that would be tan[ta]mount to opting out of Nato.

In fact, any *Ostpolitik* or *Deutsch[la]ndpolitik* conducted by Bonn without [N]ato backing would soon find itself at a [de]ad end and lead to yielding to East [Bl]oc interests.

Honecker refuses to concede to Bonn [wh]at he takes for granted about his own [co]untry: membership in an alliance.

Schmidt's view that a meeting with [H]onecker would have to wait for a [m]ore opportune moment for both parties" has been confirmed by the East Berlin congress.

At present, no concrete progress can be made, notwithstanding the fact that Honecker spoke détente, arms control and normalisation. The point is that these terms mean different things to him and the chancellor.

In assessing the GDR's policy, it would be useful to see East Berlin for what it is: a dependable ally of the Kremlin.

Not everything can be attributed to East Germany's drive to seal itself off from the Federal Republic of Germany. Yet Honecker is more than just Brezhnev's stooge.

He is convinced that his policy is right and that it does not exclude limited cooperation with Bonn — especially in the economic sector.

(General-Anzeiger, 13 April 1981)

Fewer manage to escape to West across border

The German-German border is becoming increasingly impenetrable. Only 51 Germans, managed to escape from the GDR to West Germany last year compared with 80 in 1979, says the annual report of the border police.

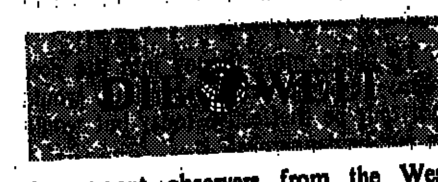
Nine of the 51 escapers were members of the GDR border police, an increase of three. In addition, 185 Germans asked for admission to the Federal Republic at border checkpoints.

Would-be refugees were arrested by GDR guards on 15 occasions.

Three escapers were wounded by self-shooters or shots fired by the guards. The report goes on to say: "There are in all likelihood a great number of unknown escape attempts that failed."

The GDR border barriers were "improved" still further last year: 410 kilometres are now equipped with self-shooters compared with 393 kilometres in 1979.

Old guard towers are being replaced by new ones with one-way mirror glass



to prevent observers from the West from seeing what goes on within.

A major area of concern for the interior minister is the increased smuggling of drugs across the border.

West German border police chalked up considerable successes last year in this field. Close to 5,000 people (500 more than in 1979) were arrested at border checkpoints on suspicion of smuggling drugs. But the quantity of confiscated drugs has gone down: for hashish from 106 to 69 kilos, for cannabis from 68 to 49.5 kilos, for heroin from 5.1 to 2.8 kilos, for opium from 252 to 17 grammes.

Experts say that this is due to the increased employment of the socalled "ant strategy". Instead of smuggling large quantities, retail dealers now cross the border with very small amounts.

West German border police strength reached a peak last year of 22,300.

Most of its work was concentrated on controlling border traffic which amounted to 900 million people crossing 711 checkpoints — 22 million more than in 1979.

The main attention was devoted law breakers. The officers arrested 40,000 persons who were already on wanted lists and another 46,000 unlisted ones.

Ulrich Lüke

(Die Welt, 8 April 1981)

■ THE ECONOMY

Bonn to borrow DM6bn to finance energy projects

The Bonn government is to borrow more than DM6bn on the international money markets in a bid to improve the competitiveness of German industry and reduce dependence on oil.

It is taking the step in tandem with the French government, which is to borrow a similar amount.

A joint statement by the two governments says it has been decided to check economic decline and rising unemployment by coordinated and simultaneous efforts to boost investment.

The total amount, the equivalent of DM12.6bn, will be borrowed in lots over the next 18 months. Each country will take half.

One immediate result is that from the beginning of May, small and medium companies in Germany will be provided with credit facilities through the Bank for Reconstruction at between 2 and 2.5 per cent below normal interest rates.

Bonn took the decision after a four-hour cabinet meeting followed by the issuing of a 10-point programme by Economic Affairs Minister Count Otto Lambsdorff and Labour Minister Herbert Ehrenberg.

The loans — and this goes for both governments — are intended for investments aimed at energy-saving projects, for structural improvements and high technology, including automation.

Count Lambsdorff said that Bonn still operated on the assumption of a growth rate this year between 0 and minus 0.5 per cent. Though he was reluctant to predict an upswing, he stressed that recent data indicated that the decline has slowed.

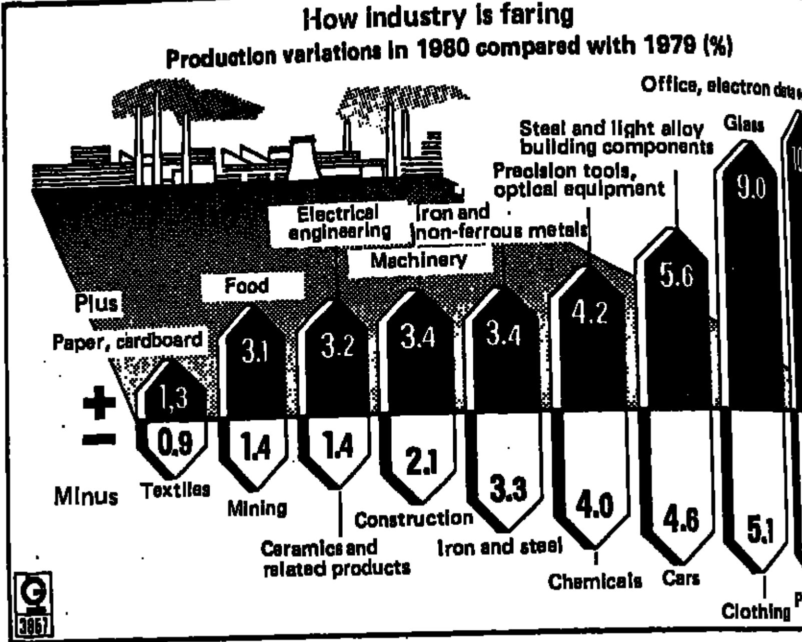
Even so, Bonn anticipates the average number of unemployed for the year to be about 1.2 million. The inflation rate will also be higher than originally expected, and the current forecast is five per cent.

Some of the measures to be taken with the loan money:

- The energy saving programme is to be followed up by concentrating government subsidies on particularly promising investments in this sector — heat pumps, solar energy and the hookup of homes to district heating plants.
- The federal government has renewed its offer to the *Länder* to assist them in developing district heating, and talks to begin without delay.
- Bonn expects to proceed swiftly with the erection of coal-operated power stations that have already been approved. So far as nuclear energy is concerned, Bonn intends to cooperate with the *Länder* in speeding up the approval process.
- The postal system has been instructed to proceed with the development of the private communications network. This concerns primarily the long term investment for fibreglass telephone cables. The details will be worked out in a cabinet session next month.

Ehrenberg is to work out before the summer recess measures aimed at curbing the abuse of job promotion schemes. This concerns primarily those jobless who now receive tax relief if they can show that their gainful employment extended only over a small portion of the year.

The labour Minister will also introduce measures to improve vocational skills, including special training courses, to combat the shortage of skilled labour.



Measures to remedy the housing shortage will be dealt with in a cabinet meeting towards the end of May. Meanwhile, the housing minister is to find out how much funds the municipalities have for appropriate projects.

Bonn has warned the EC Commission against further subsidies in the neighbouring countries, pegging this warning to its new economic programme. This applies particularly to the textile industry.

The CDU/CSU opposition censured the cabinet decision as a "meaningless undertaking".

Walther Leisler Kiep, deputy CDU/CSU floor leader in the Bundestag, along with the conservative finance expert Rudolf Sprung, also criticised Bonn's borrowing abroad to boost investments, saying that this would create a "shadow budget" that would largely be outside parliamentary control.

Baden-Württemberg's Prime Minister, Lothar Späth, CDU, criticised the programme as a "cloaked economic booster scheme".

Though he conceded that Bonn ... taking a few steps in the right direc... he said that this was nullified by ... "totally shoddy financing of ... scheme".

The envisaged measures would le... "considerable additional debt".

Initial reactions from the busi... community were also sceptical. The ... tional Federation of Industry (BDI) ... pressed its "surprise at the fact ... Bonn, which had hitherto seen no ... on to act, suddenly presented a ... gramme without having discussed ... need and consequences with the ... ness community."

The decision, the BDI said, repre... ed no genuine change of cour... Bonn's economic and fiscal policy.

The SPD parliamentary party, on ... other hand, welcomed the decisi... Wolfgang Roth (SPD), who had do... much of the spadework as part of a ... liamentary team, said that many of ... proposals put forward by the group ... been accepted.

Peter J. ...

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 9 April ...)

Yesterday's cures 'not always the best for today'

Changing the mind is never easy. It is particularly hard when it has to do with economic policy.

What has been done in the past with great success does not necessarily offer a recipe for salvation today.

Nothing makes this clearer than the demand for a DM50bn booster programme by the Federation of Trade Unions (DGB).

But what was correct in principle in 1966 and 1975, to pump more money into the economy through deficit spending, would not only be ineffective today but would in fact be dangerous.

It would only worsen the situation.

However, the demand for booster programmes continues. So it probably is Helmut Schmidt's best idea to lead it, and thus chart its direction, just as he has done.

What transpired from the recent cabinet session on economic affairs has two major advantages: for one thing, the new package of appeals and declarations of intent is no economic booster programme at all and even less a conventional one.

And, for another, the appeals to the business community as put forward by the chancellor in his government policy statement and by the finance minister in his budget address have the advantage of charting an economic course — or at least elaborating on it.

The road sign that has been set up reads: Away from stimulating demand and towards promoting the supply side and private initiative.

This is mandatory — if for no other reason because the government's ammunition is spent. The limits of debt have been reached, the Social-Liberal coalition having been unable after 1975 to achieve what had been achieved by the Grand Coalition: the SPD-FDP government in Bonn has not managed to consolidate the state debt caused by fighting the recession.

To pump more money into the economy through deficit spending, would not only be ineffective today but would in fact be dangerous.

Still, the few measures adopted by the government are aimed in the right direction. Thus, for instance, the continued energy-saving promotion and the intended development of district heating will help to reduce the current-account deficit.

But nothing has come so far of the investment easings for medium and small companies through degressive depreciation provisions because the budget is simply too strained.

This would actually have been in keeping with a timely and meaningful supply side economic policy. But neither this nor the intended effort to improve the skills of the jobless are magic formulas with which to achieve full employment and a balance of payments surplus.

All in all, the government programme can only be termed meagre. But at least it reduces the danger of overestimating its effects — a danger inherent in the very term "economic programme".

Especially now — in a time when collective bargaining is in full swing — it would be wrong to assume that we can simply change course and find ourselves back in the accustomed channel, certain that the state will lend a helping hand when things are not going too well.

The economic decline has such major structural reasons that a mere monetary shot in the arm is of little use.

Nobody can close his mind to the consequences arising from our huge balance of payments deficit. A country as industrialised as the Federal Republic of Germany cannot afford to make up for a two per cent GNP shortfall by borrowing.

The only way out is to corner larger market shares at home and abroad through cheaper and more inventive products. But this is again a question ... cost and of innovative spirit.

Even the administered and, in bu... tary terms, questionable capital imp... as agreed by Bonn and Paris are onl... makeshift measure. They are the cru... the new measures and will lead to in... est subsidies to facilitate investment.

Still, they are a welcome makeshift ... long as the Bundesbank sticks to ... high interest rate policy which, tho... contrary to economic exigencies, rem... necessary for balance of playments ... asons.

What matters ultimately is per... mance, and Germany has its trump ... here, as borne out by its low inflati... rate.

As a result, what Germany needs ... not a new economic booster program... but a reactivation of its creative pote... tial which is atrophying due to the ... eral welfare mentality.

This potential was brought to ... right after the war when nobody as... whether a certain job was an imposi... or not. Compared with the difficu... then, our problems of today are, relati... ly speaking, peanuts.

Why do we consider a freeze ... wages an insupportable sacrifice ... how come our entrepreneurs have ... generated into mere administrators?

The salvation lies in a change of me... tality which does not mean that we ... have to become workaholics as in ... immediate post-war era.

Franz Tho...

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 April ...)



BUSINESS

Manufacturers vie for supremacy in emerging mini-record market

...hi-fi industry is on the point of the ...t change since the invention of the ...ophone — the mini disc. In this ...ological break though, sound is ...ferred to the record using a digital ... and computer. In most cases a ... beam is used on the playback ...ad of a needle, thus saving wear and ... The result: a record of 12cm in ...eter that eliminates background ... and offers unparalled reproduction.

...nese, Dutch and German firms ..., in strictest secrecy, developed ... new generation of mini records.

The question to be solved was how to ...ide the most perfect computer con...ed recording with a sound as natural ... that heard by the human ear.

So far, the weak link in realising hi-fi ...nd reproduction has always been the ...ord. Dealers are inundated with com...ints about poor pressings — and it is ... which has made the producers pin ...ir hopes on the new mini discs.

German and Dutch manufacturers are ... trying to convince record makers ... manufacturers of hi-fi equipment of ... merits of their systems. The battle ...r market shares is in full swing not...withstanding the fact that the new rec...ds won't be available to the consumer ... two years.

The race to develop the new techno...gy has prompted a reaction by produ...cers of *standard* discs. They are working ...ays to produce long-playing records ... digital methods, improving them so ... that the mini-disc industry might ... choked off even before it gets its ...duct on the market.

According to the latest information, AEG-Telefunken has fallen slightly be...hind in the compact-digital-disc race ... Sony, Philips and the Hamburg-...sed multinational record producers Pol...ygram have joined forces in a bid to ... the market.

Some other Japanese and American ...ording companies are also prepared to ...pt this system.

...al is to make the record players to ... with the new discs for marketing in ...many with a price tag around ...1,000.

... their recording techniques, the fath... of the compact disc use a digital system ... the course of which a comp... stores the recording impulses and ...mits them to the record without loss of sound quality. It is here that the difference lies.

The compact-digital-disc has a diameter of 12cm and operates by laser beam rather than a needle, which means that there is no wear and tear on the material.

Initial tests came up with better sound reproduction than ever before.

But whether the laser beam is the true answer to future sound pickups will not be known until hundreds of thousands of Germans have tested the new system over an extended period.

AEG-Telefunken in Berlin has opted for a relatively safe approach which, though less spectacular, has the advantage of being rather easy to realise.

Its mini disc has been developed by Horst Redlich, the man who invented the video disc.

The final product has a diamter of 13.5cm and, operating at 250rpm, provides one hour of music for each side.

The mini disc is based on a four-channel technique that enables the listener when listening to, say, an opera to select the instruments or voices he wants to highlight.

AEG's mini discs are also recorded by the digital method, meaning that their sound quality equals that achieved by the Sony-Philips technology.

Their small diameter enables them to be fitted in a handy cassette which also serves as a protective covering. The cassette opens atomatically when inserted in the record player.

Unlike today's records, the AEG mini disc has the sound pickup on the bottom by a piezoelectric method, meaning that there is still a small needle.

According to AEG-Telefunken technicians, the most important argument in favour of their mini disc lies in the fact that it can be produced by the same method as today's LP. It also uses the same materials, which means that there is no need to buy new equipment in order to produce the little technical marvel.

Those who engage in the current heated discussion over the new type of records seem to forget the man who matters most: the buyer.

It is he who is expected to jettison his whole lovingly collected record library and start again from scratch — not only with new records but also with a new player costing at least DM1,000.

Notwithstanding stagnating sales of records due to the recession in the past two years, last year's sales in Germany amounted to 200 million records worth DM2.5bn.

But the boom is over because producers and artists no longer seem to be creative. There seems to be no new music trend in the offing, no new singer with a future and prices for star recordings have tumbled to below DM12.

Thus record producers have too much on their plates to get worked up over a new mini record.

As a result, the industry's managers consider the whole brouhaha over the mini disc and the compact-digital-disc crazy. They fear that the buyer will be frightened off and buy even less.

After all, who is going to buy an album for DM80, knowing that he might have to throw it away in a couple of years to make room for a better and more compact recording?

Wolfgang Spahr

(Kieler Nachrichten, 9 April 1981)

Case of waiting and seeing, now that the fair is over

The 1981 Hanover Fair is over. Exhibitors and organisers have every reason to be satisfied as they prepare to bring in the harvest in the months to come.

It is these next few months that will show whether the economy is going to pick up.

No matter how good a fair, it cannot bring about an economic upswing; nor is it a reliable barometer.

Last year's fair is a good example. The initial enthusiasm of many exhbitors soon gave way as the economy worsened in the months following the event.

The first quarter of last year showed the healthiest growth, but then each following quarter turned out worse.

Only performance in the next few months will show whether the expectations from this year's fair were justified.

But quite apart from short-term economic considerations, the economy as a whole was curiously only mentioned on the periphery this year.

The Hanover Fair showed something which is much more important than the question whether the upswing will come in the autumn or perhaps not until next spring.

As Manfred Lennings, head of Europe's largest mechanical engineering concern (GHH), put it at the closing: there are more important things than counting your chickens every day.

Especially where the major corporations are concerned (though this also applies to some medium-sized companies) there seems to be a new awakening in industry.

The time of resignation in the battle against the Japanese, the oil price explosion and dramatically rising costs, aggravated by the Bonn government's reluctance to give a clear lead, seem to be over.

The business community seems to be realising once more that the entrepreneur's main function is to do something.

What German industry presented at the Hanover Fair can rightly lay claim to ranking among the best the world has to offer.

There is again a determination to make the hallmark "Made in Germany" something to reckon with.

The Japanese export offensive is viewed with a bit more equanimity and the numerous technologies aimed at saving or replacing oil that were shown in Hanover make it obvious that industry is no longer waiting for signals from Bonn but is determined to tackle the necessary structural changes on its own.

Still, this does not mean that the business community intends to relieve Bonn of its responsibility for the economy. Rarely before has the government come under such stiff criticism as at this year's Hanover Fair.

Businessmen demand decisions and framework conditions that will accelerate the structural changes on the eve of the post-oil era.

But unlike only a few months ago, the business community is preparing to roll up its sleeves and do what has to be done.

This also goes for the problem of our youth which is increasingly hostile towards our growth and technology oriented attitude. Here, too, industry is no longer prepared to leave it to the state to cope with the matter.

In a special show entitled "Youth and Technology" the organisers and the business community joined forces in an attempt to reach young people and interest them in modern technology. Their approach can best be summed up as: "Technology does not equal Brokdorf."

The aims here are two-fold. On the one hand, to do away with the apprehension regarding the monster technology and prepare young people for careers by arousing interest in new technology in the knowledge that the jobs of tomorrow will be much more heavily marked by technology than were those of these young people's parents. On the other hand, industry is making an all-out effort to induce young people to study engineering, knowing that it will soon need new blood in that field — especially in view of the present run on social studies and related subjects.

The "Youth and Technology" experiment in Hanover has been successful, and many exhibitors say that young people visited their stalls to augment what they learned at the special show. In any event, the experiment is to be continued at future Fairs.

There is yet another thing that has become clear at the world's biggest shop window for capital goods: the phase of a passive fair policy aimed at stopping whole branches of industry from seeking greener pastures at other fairs is over. Hanover has stabilised its reputation and can now go into the offensive again.

Hansjürgen Wehrmann

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 9 April 1981)



ENERGY

Cash limits jeopardise nuclear plant

The Bonn Ministry of Research says that only one of West Germany's two most ambitious nuclear-power projects can be financed.

It has not yet been decided which one will get the axe.

The plants are the SNR 300 at Kalkar, on the lower Rhine, and the THTR 300 at Schmehausen, near Hamm, in the Ruhr.

The Kalkar plant is a natrium–cooled fast breeder and the other a thorium high-temperature prototype.

Both projects have been delayed and, according to current estimates, will cost a total of DM8bn, three times the original estimate.

Bonn Research Minister Andreas von Bülow emphasises that Bonn is not prepared, in the case of Kalkar, to go on footing the bill forever.

One encouraging sign for Schmehausen is that the North Rhine-Westphalian Supreme Administrative Court in Münster has lifted a court-imposed construction ban.

However, one of the main objectors to the plant, Hamm building contractor Siegfried Schleicher, does not intend to give up the fight.

And the Arnsberg Administrative Court is *still* not convinced that the reactor, the first large-scale German high-temperature reactor, would be really safe in the event of sabotage, earthquake or aircraft crash.

Herr von Bülow says about the Kalkar project that Bonn would only be prepared to pay a certain amount per year towards the cost – on condition that West German electricity supply companies make their contribution to filling the DM1bn finance gap for the fast breeder. In talks with von Bülow, these companies have completely rejected this idea.

Von Bülow said that only the Essen electricity giant RWE, main shareholder of the joint German-Dutch-Belgian project in Kalkar had set a good example by promising to put DM62m into the project in 1981 and 1982.

And Kraftwerkunion (KWU), Germany's largest atomic reactor constructors, have promised DM20m. This brings the total up to DM82m, which is a mere fraction of the originally estimated price of DM1.6 for the fast breeder – not to mention the present estimated cost of at least DM5bn.

And even this stupendous estimate is based on the quite possibly over-optimistic assumption that there will be steady progress in construction up to 1986.

So far progress with Kalkar has been so slow that many politicians and experts had their doubts whether a fast breeder finished as late as 1986 would enable this country to keep pace with the development of this technology. The French are now 15 years ahead.

Von Bülow also pointed out that West Germany lags behind in terms of energy industry investment. Energy companies played a far greater part in research and development in other countries.

Von Bülow welcomed the proposed contribution of RWE and KWU but only said that he would consider them in view of the huge gap in the Kalkar project's finances.

He appealed to the electricity supply companies to make a greater contribution. West Germany could not renounce fast breeder technology in view of the expected energy crisis by the year 2,000.

Von Bülow told the heads of the electricity supply companies: "There is a credibility gap between your interest in atomic energy development and your willingness to finance these developements."

If, despite all the uncertainties, the fast breeder were in operation by 1986 the Bundestag would still have to give its permission for it to start producing electricity. Parliament reserved the right to make this decision because this is the first German plutonium project and fast breeder reactors alarm a large section of the population, especially opponents of atomic energy. Horst Ludwig Riemer, former North Rhine-Westphalian Minister of Economic Affairs has starkly forecast that "Kalkar will end up a ruin." He warned against pumping further billions into the project. This would be irresponsible towards the taxpayers. And he again introduced his proposal – scorned by the atomic industry – to turn Kalkar into a plutonium destruction instead of a plutonium creation plant.

Even if the breeder one day became operational it would be no more than a technological and scientific ruin, he said, referring to France's huge lead in this field.

The financial disaster Kalkar now threatens to descend upon a completely different kind of nuclear technology – the Hamm high temperature reactor.

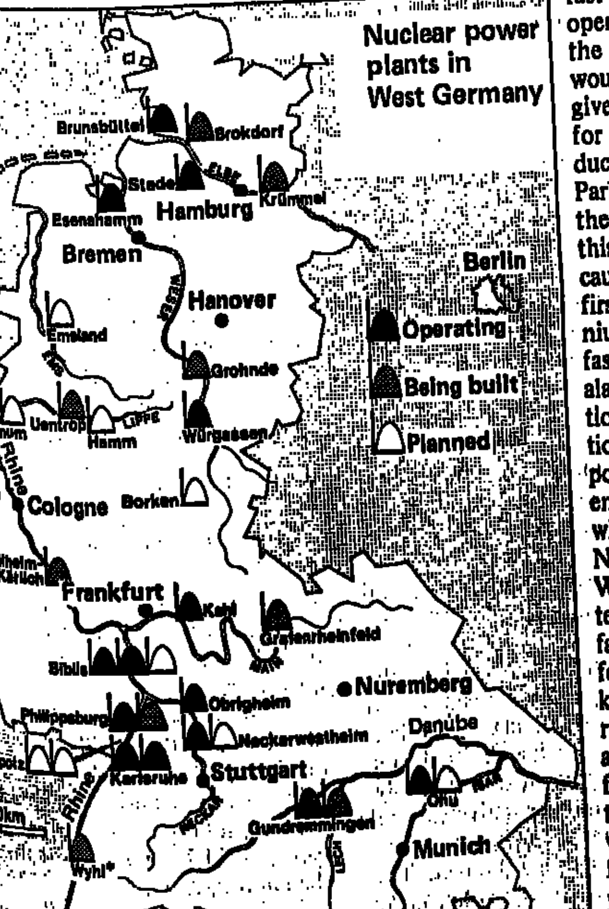
Von Búlow's experts at the Ministry of Research have worked out that Bonn can only afford to finance either Kalkar or Hamm – but not both.

If Bonn withdrew public support from Hamm, it would face massive resistance from the Düsseldorf SPD, who regard Hamm as having a key role in its coal technology programme. These high temperature reactors could one day be used to convert coal into gas which could then be supplied to the chemical industry instead of precious oil.

Siegfried Schleicher, backed by the Greens and other environmental groups, is fighting the Hamm project. The partial construction ban has now been lifted but he is still hopeful of getting a total ban on building in the final instance: "And then they will have to pull the whole thing down."

Hans Wüllenweber

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 10 April 1981)



Future in doubt: the nuclear power plant at Kalkar. (Photo: Sven Simon)

New solar cell 'is more effective'

A more energy-effective solar cell has been developed at Erlangen University.

The new cell is easier to produce, so it should also be cheaper.

The current cell, made of monocrystalline silicon, is 13 to 14 per cent effective.

But the new one, developed by R. Hezel of the university's Material Sciences Department, is 16 per cent effective.

This could easily be boosted to 19 per cent in the near future.

Hezel's development could be an important step towards the economical use of solar cells.

Much effort is going into reducing costs in this form of energy.

One method is to use polycrystalline or amorphous material instead of the expensive silicon chips. This is cheaper, but less effective, as greater amounts are needed.

To produce traditional silicon solar cells it is necessary so to change the material's electrical qualities that a "np transition" – or border layer between positive and negative particles – is formed.

For this purpose extraenous substances such as phosphorus are heated up to 850 degrees and mixed with the silicon.

However, the high temperature alters crystalline structure and this affects effectiveness.

Hezel's method does not entail the use of high temperatures and so the material is not subjected to such pressure. And the number of procedures involved is fewer. The new solar cell has a fundamentally different structure.

The silicon is covered by a thin oxide layer of 1.2 to 1.6 nanometres. On top of this comes a silicon nitride layer 80 nanometres thick. Here positive charges arise and these are vital for the effective functioning of a solar cell.

When light has created a positive and a negative charge carrier, they are separated in an electrical field. The electrons penetrate the oxide layer and enter the metal electrodes in the silicon nitrite. The electric voltage in these cells is higher than in normal cells.

The silicon nitrite forms an opaque, mechanically and chemically powerfully resistant layer. This layer is the product of a chemical reaction between silan and ammonia on the silicon disc.

In this process atomic hydrogen is produced, which neutralises crystalline defects. This improves effectiveness, particularly useful in the case of polycrystalline carriers.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 April 1981)

An answer to radioactive waste storage

The Karlsruhe Atomic Research Centre has developed a ceramic matrix material for storing and neutralising radioactive plutonium waste.

The Centre has developed the product in the past two years as part of a research commission from the European Community.

Powdery and liquid waste is injected into the ceramic substance and sintered at 1300 degrees Celsius. The end-product is stable, resistant, to both heat and radiation.

ddp

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 April 1981)



Art form under challenge: a scene from an operatic version of 'The Rake's Progress'. (Photo: Fritz Peyer)

■ THE ARTS

Despite full houses, function of opera comes under close scrutiny

Any defence of the opera as an art form these days generally meets with a shrug of the shoulders, even from progressive artists and intellectuals. Thus has been the general response since the [illegible] of arguments. One is that it takes up an unrepresentatively large amount of cultural budgets, which are too small anyway. *Another is that it is a socially irrelevant*, anachronistic, conservative-reactionary art form which is fossilised, belongs in the museum and serves only the upper classes' inordinate love of pomp.

This wave of prejudice reached its climax at the end of the sixties, when French composer and Bayreuth conductor Pierre Boulez demanded that all opera houses should be blown up.

If the state of art forms were judged solely in terms of audiences, a defence of the opera would be superfluous: 85 to 90 per cent of opera houses seats are regularly filled.

Some years ago the Institute of Project Studies conducted a poll which found that 21 per cent of Germans go to an opera at least once a year. And of this 21 per cent, 54 per cent had elementary leaving certificates, 30 per cent had 0 levels and only 16 per cent had university entrance qualifications.

Many cultural politicians could con*clude from these statistics alone that all* is well with the music scene in this country — and in terms of audience interest and audience social structure this conclusion would be correct.

The key question which is constantly being posed is: what can the opera offer people today? Is the opera's function that of a museum, does it satisfy the aesthetic need for "beautiful appearances" or is there still an element of striving for liberty, upheaval and reconciliation as in the case of the early bourgeois opera around 1800 (Mozart's *Magic Flute* and Beethoven's *Fidelio*).

Of course the humanitarian message of the *Magic Flute* and the indictment of political oppression and despotism in *Fidelio* remain as relevant as ever, but are the musical and dramatic means of the late 18th century the most appropriate mode of expression.

Ninety per cent of today's opera repertoire — ballet *excluded* — *consists* of works composed before the 20th century [illegible] such as those of Puccini [illegible]

So yes, opera does have an artistic function — though in the case of the two above-mentioned classics the mu*seum's exhibits are timeless.*

After 1945, Rolf Liebermann was the only German opera director to include a large proportion of contemporary works in his opera repertoire. He was head of the Hamburg Opera for 14 years, in which he commissioned many contemporary works — with the full support of the Hamburg opera-goers. It is simply wrong to say that opera audiences are not interested in contemporary works.

On the other hand, it is not true to say that the opera has no raison d'etre as a museum. On the contrary. The cultivation and re-interpretation of important works from the past is part of the overall task.

Another important task is to bring opera back into the socio-cultural field of force in which it operated from its origins until 1932 — to transform it from within into musical theatre.



Rolf Liebermann (Photo: Archiv)

It is true that opera is unfortunately far less the focal point of artistic and social discussion today than it was for example in the twenties or in previous centuries.

The major interests of our time are mainly reflected through other art forms. Some reasons for this have been mentioned above.

However, there have been a number of innovative and provocative composers working in opera in the past 30 years. Names such as Mauricio Kagel, Luigi Nono, Hans Werner Henze, Györgi Ligeti, Bernd Alois Zimmermann and the like are all artists who in their own very different ways have underlined the essential role of opera as part of our overall cultural heritage.

Philosopher Ernst Bloch regarded the opera and music in general as spurs to hope, confidence and the realisation of a "concrete utopia." And another great thinker of this century, Herbert Marcuse, came to a similar view of the role of art in society after a radical revision of his ideas in later life.

For many decades, Marcuse insisted on the position developed in his *The Affirmative Character of Culture*. Here he said that art should be directly integrated into life and that this would inevitably lead to the death of art.

In his final major work, *The Permanence of Art*, Marcuse revised this position. In this work he says that art must maintain its autonomy in our increasingly bureaucratised age. This, he argues, is the only way it can escape the fetters of the dominant point of view.

And here Marcuse is referring to all art, not just to socially relevant art, whatever that may be.

Is opera too expensive? Against the background of what has already been said, *the answer to this must* be a categorical no. It is true, though, that this money is sometimes spent too carelessly, ineffectively and unimaginatively. And of course the opera is the most expensive item in the cultural budget. The Deutsche Oper in Berlin — which ranks with the Hamburg and Munich operas in terms of size, subsidies and qu[illegible] had a total budget of DM59m in [illegible] Of this, DM9m was recouped [illegible] box office takings and the rema[illegible] DM50m was a state subsidy.

In return, the Deutsche Oper pr[illegible]ed 336 performances in the 1977/[illegible] son and audiences totalled 550,000 [illegible]siderably more than many top Ge[illegible] football clubs.

No theatre attracted anything li[illegible] same numbers. Of course it is [illegible] nature of opera to be expensive. [illegible] orchestra, soloists, workshops etc [illegible] personnel costs and gobble up [illegible] sums — 90 per cent of the De[illegible] Oper's budget — which is hardly [illegible]ing when one considers that th[illegible]utsche Oper has a permanent [illegible] 1,000.

Labour market and socio-p[illegible] aspects cannot be adduced as pri[illegible]guments for the opera, which [illegible] stand or fall on its aesthetic [illegible] However, these considerations can[illegible] completely ignored either, especi[illegible] times of rising unemployment.

The large number of permanent [illegible] at the Deutsche Oper underlines [illegible] the much-cited super fees paid to [illegible] stars are very much the exception.

But this does not mean that th[illegible] any justification whatever for [illegible] stars DM10,000 to DM20,000 fo[illegible] performance — out of taxpayers' m[illegible]

There is no denying that brillia[illegible]ging is part of the *fascination* o[illegible] opera. A singer goes through a lo[illegible] arduous training, has no guaran[illegible] security and is subjected to great p[illegible]al and psychological stress. This [illegible] above-average payment for artist[illegible] can be justified, *though* by abo[illegible]

Herbert Marcuse (Photo: [illegible])

rage I do not mean *anything* li[illegible] fees mentioned.

Finally a world must be said abo[illegible] foolish and short-sighted strate[illegible] some cultural representatives who [illegible] a larger slice of the cultural [illegible] stoop to indicting *the opera* as [illegible]tiable and spoilt monster. Instead of [illegible]ing together for higher subsidie[illegible] people fight one another for [illegible] the cake.

It ought to be understood th[illegible]lised nation such *as ours* whi[illegible]pared to spend DM65m and [illegible] even more for a fighter jet s[illegible]port the opera, traditional and [illegible] art forms.

It can be said that intensi[illegible] of art and culture will impro[illegible] dividual's chances of combati[illegible] daily pressures and attacks th[illegible] pressing him. Art — of which [illegible] part — will be a key aid to [illegible] the coming years.

Peter S[illegible]

(Vorwärts, [illegible])

■ MEDICINE

Advances aid the infertile, but ethical questions remain

Even those who heard only a fraction of the 600-odd papers that were read at the 3rd World Congress on Human Procreation at Berlin's Congress Centre could not escape the impression that normal procreation and pregnancy is the exception rather than the rule today.

Much of the Congress dealt with ways and means of artificially preventing and restoring fertility and with "repair jobs" for sterile men and barren women.

For couples who for one reason or another cannot have children for whom even surgery is not feasible there still remains the test tube baby.

Discussion on the ethical and legal questions that go with test tube babies was held before rows of empty seats. But even before then it had become obvious that a technology, once introduced, can no longer be reversed.

Not only the various religions — above all the Catholic Church — frown upon such juggling with ovum and semen. Lay sceptics argue that the world suffers more from overpopulation than from a baby shortage.

However, procreation specialists argue that their main objective is to help the individual, the patient.

"We are no politicians," they say, "and therefore social issues are not our concern."

The unfulfilled wish for a child, on the other hand, can impose a severe emotional strain. Moreover, biologists and doctors have learned a great deal about the mechanisms of procreation and prenatal development and are thus able to prevent malformations in infants.

The picture for treating childless couples has greatly changed.

Only a few years ago the insemination of a woman with the semen of an unknown man was the subject of heated medical and ideological debate.

Today, the experts find that their work is barely disturbed by such considerations.

Heterologous insemination, as it is called, is becoming routine for both specialised doctors and hospitals.

Medical congresses like that in Berlin now only deal with techniques and the most promising methods of such insemination.

Microsurgery, a major instrument in helping couples have children of their own, has also been improved in the past few years, though it still has its limitations.

Fallopian tube blockages can only be remedied by surgery of they are not too extensive and if the blockage is accessible. It is therefore not surprising that this type of surgery will soon be regarded as antiquated.

The original controversy over the first test tube baby that was born on 25 July 1978, Louise Brown, has given way to matter-of-fact scientific discussions.

The "medical fathers" of Louise, British Drs Patrick Steptoe and Robert Edwards, were thus a major magnet for the majority of the 1,200 participants in the Congress as were their equally successful Astralian counterparts.

Sixteen pregnancies have so far been brought about in Australia by uniting ovum and semen. Two of these babies have meanwhile been born, another one is due, and nine women are only a few months short of delivery.

Edwards and Steptoe, who have so far produced two test tube babies, reported on eight further pregnancies, intimating that this was not all.

They recently abandoned their university work to open a commercial clinic in a medieval English castle.

This type of insemination is usually carried out in cases where the fallopian tubes are blocked due to some former infection. So far as men are concerned, the method is indicated when there is a shortage of fertile semen because artificial insemination requires much fewer semen cells than the natural variety.

Constant control of hormones and of the ovaries by means of ultrasonic devices enables the doctor to determine the most favourable moment when the ovum is ripe, but before the follicle bursts.

First, the doctor extracts the sperm. Then, using a syringe, he sucks an ovum cell from the follicle.

Following a series of laboratory tests, the semen and the ovum cell are placed in a nutrient solution where insemination takes place.

The inseminated ovum cell can now mature in an incubator and is then implanted in the uterus.

This is where the major problem lies because the mucous membrane of the uterus undergoes changes that are too fast for the relatively slow process of artificial insemination.

This timing problem can be aggravated still further when — as is being done by the Australians — hormones are used to stimulate the creation of several follicles in order to more easily obtain a fertile ovum.

On the other hand, it should be possible to add a different hormone that will slow down the changes in the mucous membrane.

To overcome this synchroni problem, reproduction research now toying with the idea of technique that has long been in animal husbandry: deep frozen and female cells or already insemi ova, i.e. embryos.

This would make it possible to the prospective mother's next cycle then choose the right moment for implantation.

Veterinary surgeons and doctors cussed the matter in a totally way. They arrived at the conclusion human sperm is almost as suitable deep freezing as is the sperm of though unfortunately the method not yet worked in practice. (Still deep freeze method is already in heterologous insemination.) There some problem with the defrosting embryos — but given time this overcome.

In the United States, which has a pioneer in this field, there is some talk of using a rent-a- scheme in cases of women who for reason or another have no uterus. rented mother would place her uterus the couple's disposal.

Ten to 15 per cent of all couples unable to have children. Up to 25 cent of this infertility is due to psycho logical reasons. They are anxious to medy the situation, and the argu that they should be taught to cope their problem meets with little sympathy.

Progress in reproductive medicine been so swift that those who today er the future of human procreation nature and its limitations, talk things past.

Justin West

Many ways to help childless to have children

Infertility is no longer something that must be lived with: there are now many ways of overcoming it, particularly when the problem lies with the woman.

Childlessness stems from the man about as often as it does from the woman. In about 20 per cent of cases, it is due to both partners.

Much more is known about the reproductive processes of women, and diagnosis has improved greatly.

Moreover, analysis of hormones which, along with the pituitary gland, control the functioning of the sex organs has provided many new insights and has shed light on the mechanics of menstruation.

And researchers have managed to shed light on the interplay between hypophysis and the pituitary gland — at least in some areas.

It is now known that such substances as dopamine and serotomin can retard or promote hypophysis.

The pituitary gland responds to environmental sensations among other things. All these insights have led to the development of new disciplines of medicine, among them reproductive medicine, the aim of which is to make reproduction controllable in a negative and in a positive sense.

The intention is to use medical knowledge about reproductive processes to help childless couples have children (there are still considerable gaps concerning male reproductive functions) and, on the other hand, to develop new contraceptive methods — such as the pill for the man — that will help stem the population explosion in many parts of the world.

Professor Eberhard Nieschlag of the Clinical Research Group for Reproductive Medicine of the Max Planck Society deplores the fact that this line of medicine has not yet become established as an independent discipline.

Professor Hermann P.G. Schneider draws attention to the fact that West Germany's population is diminishing by 200,000 every year (the population of a city like Münster) and that ten per cent of couples are unable to have children.

This made research into the treatment of sterility essential.

The growing number of childless couples, he said, can be explained by the new insights about the interplay between the pituitary gland and hypophysis.

Environmental influences such stress have a negative effect on the tuitary gland and thus on hypo This can lead to functional without organic disorders.

This can be diagnosed by determ the amount of (the hormone) pro in the blood. If it is excessively high indicates that the transmission of tion to the pituitary gland through pamine is out of order.

Although a high incidence of tin is mostly due to a pituitary tumour, one-fifth of all cases of nal sterility is due to a disorder in interplay between the pituitary and hypophysis.

This interplay can to a large extent influenced by medication. among female drug addicts has tracked down to the effect of drugs dopamine. Some medication used for testinal disorders has a similar effect

This type of infertility can be co racted by substances that promote pamine secretion. Here, bromoc has proved 100 per cent successful.

The interplay between the pi gland and hypophysis also plays a role in another type of functional ity caused by a deficiency in "hormones" which prompt the gland to release the socalled LH mone into the blood.

All attempts at curing this disorder were unsuccessful until chers found that LH is released specific rhythm.

Continued on page 14

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■ EDUCATION

'Standstill over realities of 1980s not only a matter of cash'

The vaunted "empty coffers dictate" in Bonn, the *Länder* and the municipalities has brought some action in a field of politics that experts have been tediously sifting despite fierce ideological disputes. But the action and movement, as evidenced by the statements of politicians, education ministers and spokesmen for various organisation is not directed forward.

The current slogan is not "Accept the Challenge of the 80s and 90s" by investing in the future in the most important sector by providing good education and vocational training for the largest possible number of apprentices and university students and tackling the job with vigour.

On the contrary. The courage needed to tackle the challenge and tread new paths is being stifled by another slogan that is rampant now, i.e. "stop the Experiments". It is also being stifled by financial cutbacks involving money needed for the construction of new universities, for new teaching positions and for scholarships.

Lower Saxony's Education Minister Remmer, CDU, demands that the joint Federal Government-*Länder* Commission on Educational planning be disbanded because there is nothing left to plan.

Yet educational policy makers of all parties were in agreement in the early 1970s when that body was established and the first overall educational plan was worked out in 1973. There was consensus at the time that, in the long run, 20 per cent of each school year should go on to university. Among the other important objectives were the appointment of additional teachers to make for smaller classes and a nation-wide project for comprehensive schools as an alternative to the traditional 3-tier educational system.

The percentage of students having now been reached and the comprehensive school in its various forms tested, the SPD and FDP, the most ardent protagonists at the time, are reluctant to continue on that course.

In the other political camp there is now a clear sign of smugness over the fact that the necessity to economise is about to thwart the whole project which never enjoyed much favour in that camp in the first place.



The whole movement has been spearheaded by the teachers' associations rather than the politicians. The target of their attack is the comprehensive school — and that at the very moment when a decision is about to be reached in the *Länder* as to whether this type of school should enjoy equal status with the traditional 3-tier system.

The secondary school teachers' association now maintains that the atmosphere at comprehensive schools is "cold" and that it promotes "aggression, selfishness and violence."

This is a blend of not very clever arguments, a bizarre contribution to the topical discussion on the causes of revolt among some of our young people and a deliberate disregard for scientific findings.

According to these findings, comprehensive school students are more eager to learn than their opposite numbers in traditional schools and the atmosphere between teachers, parents and children is anything but "cold".

The teachers' association fails to mention that, as polls in North Rhine-Westphalia show, well over one-fourth of the parents would like to send their children to a comprehensive school if there were one nearby.

Instead, they repeat ancient prejudices: Comprehensive school promotes only the collective as a whole, good students learn less than they could and poor ones learn no more than in traditional schools.

Another teachers' association recently deplored that a whole generation of students considers loafing more important than learning, overlooking the fact that hundreds of thousands of young people struggle to improve their grades by decimal points to enable them to enrol in university without knowing whether their efforts will be rewarded.

Such conservative efforts to declare the entire experimental phase in our educational policy a failure and finished have, of course, had their effects.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, Prime Minister Johannes Rau, SPD, has tabled a bill in the state legislature which most of his fellow party members have termed "lax and indecisive".

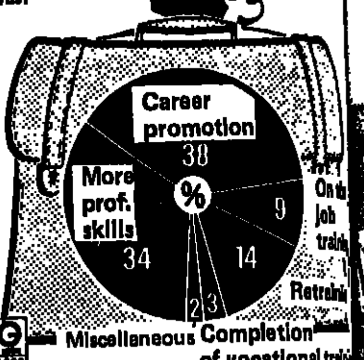
According to the detractors, the bill makes it virtually impossible to establish additional comprehensive schools in rural areas — and that notwithstanding the fact that the 32 existing schools of this type have to turn down one in two applicants.

Leading SPD politicians in North Rhine-Westphalia rebut this, arguing that "there are more important problems to be dealt with in these difficult times" than the tricky subject of comprehensive schools.

This fear of going ahead in matters of educational policy in a time of economic crisis is typical of the attitudes of SPD and FDP in Bonn as well.

Further Education: Career opportunities

2.1 million workers took part in further education courses between 1970 and 1979



The 20 per cent cutback in [...] *Länder* projects for the construction [...] universities, as agreed upon in the co[...] tion negotiations, and the cutbacks [...] funds set aside for basic research a[nd] technology in the Research Minis[try] budget are telling examples.

Yet the coalition government st[...] with the motto "Courage to Tackle t[he] Future". This is irreconcilable with c[ut]backs on vital investments in the fu[ture] such as those in the research and edu[ca]tion sectors.

Courage would have meant sett[ing] priorities — especially in times wh[en] funds are in short supply.

If the jungle of subsidies were to [be] cleared there would be ample fu[nds] available.

The constant talk about the risk [of] unemployment being the greater t[...] lower the standard of education sho[uld] make it mandatory to take decisi[ve] action regarding vocational training. [...] politicians know very well how cos[tly] unemployment is. *Peter Abspacher*

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 7 April 19[81])

Childless

Continued from page 12

It was initially extremely difficult to reproduce the pattern of this rhythm but the use of pumps during the past 18 months helped overcome the problem.

Attached to the patient's clothing, the pump releases LH into the blood stream at exactly the natural intervals.

Science can chalk it up as a great success that this form of sterility can now be treated (25 per cent of the patients thus treated have so far become pregnant). But diagnosis and therapy are tedious.

In view of this, it is legitimate to ask whether adopting an orphan is not just as good a solution. *Angela Heck*

(Die Welt, 14 April 1981)

The system, parents, accused over 'wasted talent'

Top talent in German schools is being wasted because of the traditional school system, unenlightened parents and the "equal opportunity" policies of education, says a group of educationists.

They say that between 0.5 and 2 per cent of pupils, the top range, is not being developed the way it is in the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain.

Objections to the system are being spearheaded by the German Teachers Association.

Moves were made last year to introduce special classes for genius children, but the project had to be postponed.

In June, the idea is to be further discussed during a "contact week".

Case histories are used to back up the arguments. One involves Michael, who by the time he was four could ski, play a musical instrument, write, add, subtract, and — using his own method — divide.

By the time he was five, he beat the chess champion of a city in southern Germany, and could speak several languages.

Michael looked forward to school — until he got there.

Just for fun, one weekend he solved all problems in his maths book, and promptly was chided by the teacher. He was no longer asked questions in class because, as the teacher put it, he knew everything.

Michael's frustration became chronic, resulting in crying fits, illness and lack of appetite.

The "talented but opinionated and introverted child" (as the teacher put it) had an IQ of 170.

Eva, now nine, was able to speak in complete sentences at the age of 11 months. When she was three she started to learn foreign languages from the guests in her parents' hotel, and by the time she was four she had a behavioural disorder.

While the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain have tackled the gifted child problem in a down-to-earth way through special summer courses for 14 to 16-ear-olds (USA) or through special schools for the gifted aged between two and 15 as in Hurst, England, in this country the problem of the child genius is simply being ignored.

But there is an outcry now for the promotion of these children, pioneered by the German Teachers Association which deplores the manner in which our gifted children are being treated.

The Society for the Promotion of Highly Talented Children in Hamburg and the Christian Youth Village Organisation were all set to start a special class for genius children last year.

The fact that the project had to be postponed to the 1981/82 school year is not necessarily a disadvantage.

Ideas on the setup of such a class have meanwhile become clearer, contacts between educationalists and the Youth Village Organisation closer.

Even more important, opposition a[nd] misunderstanding among those who [are] against any special promotion for th[ese] children are dwindling.

There is, for instance, the misund[er]standing that such promotion w[ould] support undeserving parents who [...] no support.

The counterargument now recei[ves] more and more attention. It conte[nds] that truly talented children founder [in] our school system and that the object[ive] is not to get the maximum of perf[or]mance out of young people but to h[elp] them develop their potential, as Chr[is]topher Dannemann of the Youth Villa[ge] Organisation puts it.

A first step will be taken in J[une] with a socalled contact week dur[ing] which, following an idea of Profess[ors] Müller-Luckmann (Braunschwe[ig]), Schmidt (Mannheim), Volkmann (Stu[tt]gart) and Weinschenk (Berlin), can[di]dates for the new high school class w[ill] be selected.

They will be taught by top teach[ers] who also teach normal classes.

In addition, however, each will hav[e a] sponsor (either a university professor [or] an artist) depending on the child's p[ar]ticular interest.

For the rest, it will be classes as u[sual]. *F. Uhl[...]*

(Die Welt, 1 April [1981])

SPORT

German girls win world hockey championship

Hannoversche Allgemeine

West Germany has won the women's hockey world champion[ship] for the second time in five years.

The team beat the defending cham[pions], Holland, 4-2, on penalties in the [final] in Buenos Aires.

The score at the end of extra time [was] 1-all, but the goalie, Susi Schmidt, [of] Leverkusen, saved three out of four [...] penalties by the Dutch girls.

Wolfgang Strödter, the team trainer, [cou]ld hardly have wished for a better [...] birthday present.

Strödter, holder of 1976 international [...], said: "This championship meant as [mu]ch to us as winning a gold at the [Ol]ympics."

The team, with an average age of 22 [year]s and six months, is unusually [you]ng.

Strödter singled out Schmidt for spe[cia]l mention, describing her as the best [goa]lie in the competition.

As for the final itself, Strödter com[men]ted: "We won. We held on. It was a [...] performance, especially in the se[con]d half and extra time, when I [tho]ught we were the better side."

[O]lympic gold medallists Zimbabwe [did no]t compete in Argentina, nor did [the] British and New Zealand teams, [whic]h are both highly-rated. This was [beca]use these teams are members of the [I]WH and not the FIH, which organ[ised] the Buenos Aires event.

But this in no way detracts from the West German team's achievement. Strödter, who is an honorary trainer but hopes to be officially appointed national trainer later this year, pointed out that there were four world-class teams in the competition, the two finalists plus the Soviet Union, who took third place, and Australia, who came fourth. Strödter also said that Argentina, who came sixth, are now also very strong.

It is already clear that there is going to be some bitter arguing between the two hockey organisations about qualification criteria for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Strödter says: "Our world championship title in Argentina is definitely an important step towards qualification."

The trend which emerged in Moscow despite the absence of some of the world's strongest teams was evident in Argentina. Improved training methods have made women's hockey more athletic, faster and harder.

Strödter's verdict: "Despite technical imperfections, the Soviet Union were superior to all other teams athletically. We will have to draw our conclusions from this."

He regards this team as the core of his Olympic squal for 1984.

However he recognises that professional and family commitments can often make it very difficult to keep a successful team together: "Women often give up competitive sport at the age of 25 whereas men can put up world-class performances at 30." *dpa*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 April 1981)



On the way to a dramatic victory. The German women's hockey team (black dresses) in action against the defending champions, Holland, in the final of the world championships in Buenos Aires. (Photo: dpa)

Buenos Aires victory ends turbulent period

Wolfgang Strödter, trainer of the West German women's hockey [team] which won the world champion[ship] in Argentina, was only 32 when he [took] on the post last year.

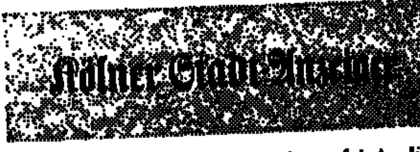
[He] was appointed after the girls had [effective]ly sacked their predecessor. They [finish]ed as runners-up in the world [cham]pionship without a trainer. Dis[...] and bitterness overshadowed [...].

[It] took some time before the German [Hock]ey Association and the national [wom]en's team re-established a working [relati]onship.

[Strö]dter has brought calm and hard [work] back to the team. But when Bonn [was] asked to pay him a full trainer's [salar]y, the officials gave the thumbs [dow]n. The coffers were empty, there [simpl]y were not the funds to pay anoth[er nat]ional trainer.

[Th]ose officials did not show a great [deal] of skill in appointing Strödter hon[orary], unpaid trainer — even though the [...] German women's hockey team is [one] of the best in the world.

[Th]is must be seen against a back[grou]nd in which other national trainers [are h]aving far less success — though not [nece]ssarily because they are any less [com]petent. Generally the sporting talent [availa]ble is not strong enough for the [...]ds.



Success and achievement ought to be criteria for appointing a national trainer.

Theo Schulte

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 7 April 1981)

This time last year, Hamburg SV footballers were on the point of winning two championships, the league and the European Cup. In the end, they won neither.

But the club treasurer did not complain. Payment of DM1m in bonuses was saved.

Now Bayern Munich is in a similar position.

No doubt club treasurer Scherer would be as pleased as the next man if Bayern did the double, but from a purely economic viewpoint one victory would be enough — as it would ensure participation in next year's European Cup.

Winning is nice, but it can be expensive for soccer clubs

For this reason, the Bayern board has put two provisions into its bonus scheme. It will pay each member of the squad DM40,000 for winning the German championship.

This will be payable in two instalments, one immediately and one after the club has reached the second round of the European Cup in the 1981/82 season.

If, as in 1975, Bayern win the European Cup, they will only get the DM40,000 bonus if they fail to win the *Bundesliga*.

As manager Uli Hoeness points out, economic success is the only factor which decides the amount of the bonus.

Süddeutsche Zeitung

A European Cup victory increases a team's international value on the transfer market and in friendly games. This is why manager Scernai wants a pay rise.

Hoeness plans next year to sell club emblems and pennants and all kinds of other odds and ends. He is confident this will prove a money-spinner.

Fans who want their team to win everything going are unlikely to appreciate all the cold calculation of marks and pfennigs.

But it's the only way to survive in this risky business.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 April 1981)

Promotion problems 'not solved by using fancy descriptions for events'

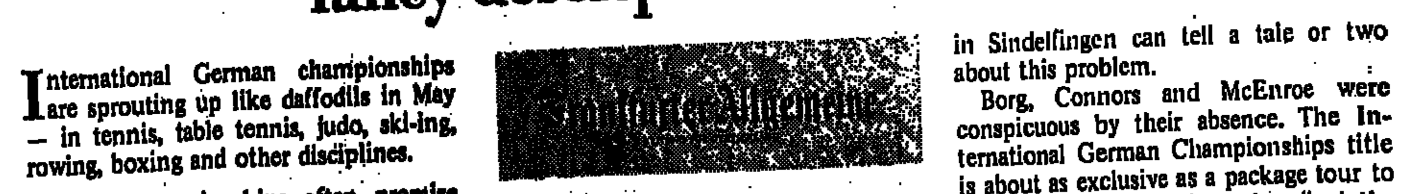
International German championships are sprouting up like daffodils in May — in tennis, table tennis, judo, ski-ing, rowing, boxing and other disciplines.

These championships often promise more than they deliver, as the recent Intercup boxing tournament in Münster underlined.

The temptation is strong for sports officials to upgrade national championships by calling them "international" — it sounds far better.

But these fine-sounding titles don't exactly attract the world's elite.

In fact the devaluation of international German championships in recent years has tended to make people forget that some of these competitions — in rowing for instance — are genuinely world-class events.



The "international" has not pulled in huge crowds, either. The public is much better informed about sport these days, and will only turn up en masse when major international stars are performing.

The organiser of the International German Indoor Tennis Championships in Sindelfingen can tell a tale or two about this problem.

Borg, Connors and McEnroe were conspicuous by their absence. The International German Championships title is about as exclusive as a package tour to Majorca, so the organisers described the competition as the "strongest 75,000 dollar competition."

This did not exactly get the crowds pouring in.

The public are not gullible. They are not impressed by fine wrapping. They want to see top-quality performances, not to hear vain promises of great things to come.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 30 March 1981)